AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

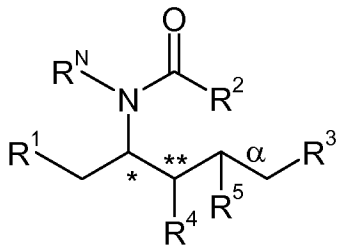
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-91. (Canceled)

92. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation suitable for parenteral administration comprising:

(i) an amphiphilic drug selected from the group consisting of an anthracycline and an alkaloid; and

(ii) a short-chain sphingolipid selected from compounds of the following formula:



wherein:

R^1 is independently:

an O-linked saccharide group; or

an O-linked polyhydric alcohol group;

or:

R^1 is independently:

an O-linked (optionally N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)-substituted amino)-C_{1-6}alkyl-phosphate group; or

an O-linked (polyhydric alcohol-substituted)-C_{1-6}alkyl-phosphate group;

R^2 is independently C_{3-9}alkyl,

and is independently unsubstituted or substituted;

R^3 is independently C_{7-19}alkyl,

and is independently unsubstituted or substituted;

R^4 is independently -H, -OH, or -O-C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^N is independently -H or C_{1-4}alkyl;

the bond marked with an alpha (α) is independently a single bond or a double bond;

if the bond marked with an alpha (α) is a double bond, then R^5 is -H;

if the bond marked with an alpha (α) is a single bond, then R^5 is -H or -OH;

the carbon atom marked (*) is independently in an R-configuration or an S-configuration;

the carbon atom marked (**) is independently in an R-configuration or an S-configuration;

with the proviso that when R^1 is an O-linked saccharide group which is derived from galactopyranose, then R^1 is D-galactopyranosyl-β1-;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 93. (Canceled)

94. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein said drug is an anthracycline.

95. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein said drug is selected from: doxorubicin, idarubicin, epirubicin, aclarubicin, mitrozantrone, and daunorubicin, and salts thereof.

96. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein said drug is doxorubicin or doxorubicin hydrochloride.

97. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein said drug is an alkaloid.

98. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein said drug is selected from: topotecan and camptothecin.

99. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^2 is linear.

100. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^2 is linear; and has from 0 to 3 carbon-carbon double bonds.

101. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^2 is unsubstituted or substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, -OH, C_{1-4}alkoxy, -C(=O)OH, and -C(=O)O-C_{1-4}alkyl.

102. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^2 is $-(CH_2)_nCH_3$, wherein n is an integer from 4 to 8.

103. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^2 is $-(CH_2)_nCH_3$, wherein n is an integer from 6 to 8.

104. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^2 is $-(CH_2)_6CH_3$.

105. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein the bond marked alpha is a double bond and R^5 is -H.

106. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein the bond marked alpha is a single bond; and R^5 is -H.

107. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein the bond marked alpha is a single bond; and R^5 is -OH.

108. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^3 is linear.

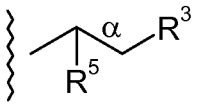
109. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^3 is linear; and has from 0 to 3 carbon-carbon double bonds.

110. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^3 is unsubstituted or substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, -OH, C_{1-4}alkoxy.

111. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^3 is $-(CH_2)_nCH_3$, wherein n is an integer from 8 to 16.

112. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^3 is $-(CH_2)_{12}CH_3$.

113. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein the moiety:



is selected from the following:

$-(CH_2)_8-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_{10}-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_{12}-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_{14}-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_7-CH=CH-(CH_2)_5-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_{16}-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_7-CH=CH-(CH_2)_7-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_9-CH=CH-(CH_2)_5-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_7-[CH=CH-CH_2]_2-(CH_2)_3-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_7-[CH=CH-CH_2]_3-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_4-[CH=CH-CH_2]_3-(CH_2)_3-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_7-[CH=CH]_3-(CH_2)_3-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_{18}-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_6-[CH=CH-CH_2]_2-(CH_2)_6-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_3-[CH=CH-CH_2]_3-(CH_2)_6-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_3-[CH=CH-CH_2]_4-(CH_2)_3-CH_3$;

$-(CH_2)_{20}-CH_3$;

analogs of the foregoing wherein the left-most $-(CH_2)_2-$ is replaced with -CH=CH-; and

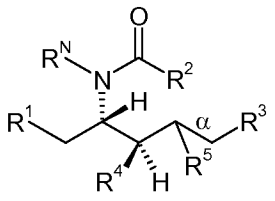
analogs of the foregoing wherein the left-most $-(CH_2)-$ is replaced with -CH(OH)-.

114. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^4 is -H, -OH, -OMe, -OEt, -O(iPr), -O(nPr), -O(nBu), -O(iBu), -O(sBu), or -O(tBu).

115. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^4 is -OH.

116. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^N is -H, -Me, or -Et.

117. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein the carbon atoms marked (*) and (**) have a configuration as shown in the following formula:



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118. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^1 is an O-linked saccharide group.

119. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^1 is an O-linked mono-, di-, or tri-saccharide group.

120. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^1 is comprises a group or groups selected from:

arabinose, lyxose, ribose, xylose,

allose, altrose, glucose, mannose, gulose, idose, galactose, and talose;

and derivatives thereof.

121. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^1 is an O-linked mono-, di-, or tri-saccharide group comprising a group or groups selected from:

arabinose, lyxose, ribose, xylose,

allose, altrose, glucose, mannose, gulose, idose, galactose, talose,

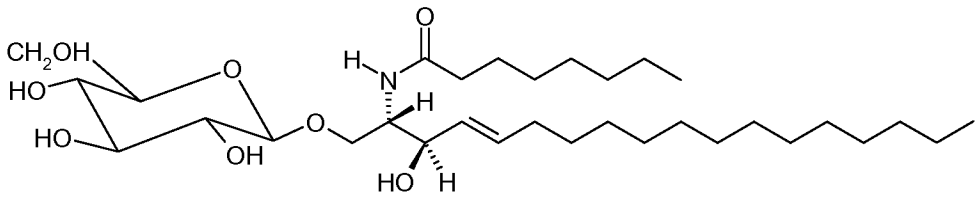
sucrose, maltose, lactose, cellobiose, galabiose,

globotriaose, isoglobotriaose, mucotriaose, lactotriaose, neolactotriaose gangliotriaose, galatriaose, mollutriaose, and antrotriaose;

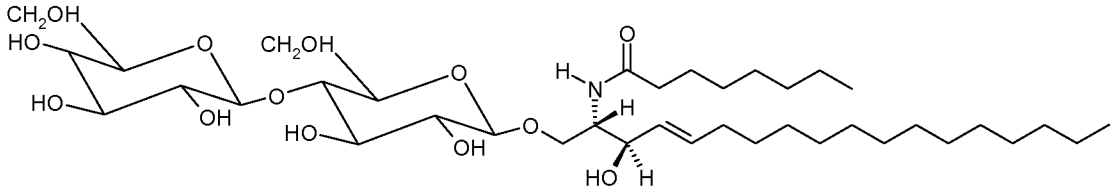
and derivatives thereof.

122. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 120, wherein said saccharide group derivatives are selected from deoxy, di-deoxy, di-deoxy-di-dehydro, methoxy, acetoxy, carboxylic acid, sulfuric acid, amino-deoxy, N-acetyl-amino-deoxy, or N-sulfo-amino-deoxy.

123. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein said short-chain sphingolipid has the following formula (C_8-GlcCer):



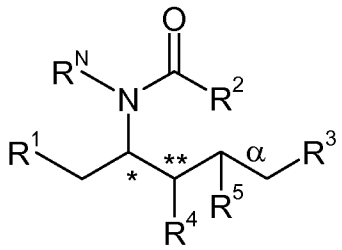
124. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein said short-chain sphingolipid has the following formula:



125. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising:

(i) a drug; and

(ii) a short-chain sphingolipids selected from compounds of the following formula



wherein:

R^1 is independently an O-linked polyhydric alcohol group

R^2 is independently $C_{3\text{-}9}$alkyl,

and is independently unsubstituted or substituted;

R^3 is independently C_{7-19}alkyl,

and is independently unsubstituted or substituted;

R^4 is independently -H, -OH, or -O-C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^N is independently -H or C_{1-4}alkyl;

the bond marked with an alpha (α) is independently a

single bond or a double bond;

if the bond marked with an alpha (α) is a double bond, then R^5 is -H;

if the bond marked with an alpha (α) is a single bond, then R^5 is -H or -OH;

the carbon atom marked (*) is independently in an R-configuration or an S-configuration;

the carbon atom marked (**) is independently in an R-configuration or an S-configuration;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

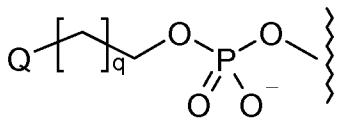
126. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 125, wherein R^1 comprises a group selected from: ethanediol (glycol), propanediol, butanediol, glycerol, and erythritol.

127. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^1 is:

an O-linked (optionally N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)-substituted amino)-C_{1-6}alkyl-phosphate group; or

an O-linked (polyhydric alcohol-substituted)-C_{1-6}alkyl-phosphate group.

128. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^1 is:



wherein:

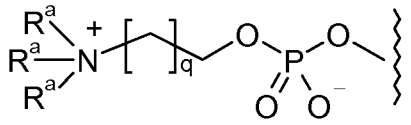
q is an integer from 0 to 5;

Q is: $-NH_2$, $-NHR^a$, $-NR^a{}_2$, or $-NR^a{}_3{}^+$; or:

Q is a polyhydric alcohol group, linked via an oxygen atom;

each R^a is linear or branched saturated C_{1-4}alkyl.

129. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^1 is:

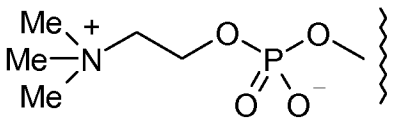


wherein:

q is an integer from 0 to 5; and

each R^a is a C_{1-4}alkyl group.

130. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein R^1 is:



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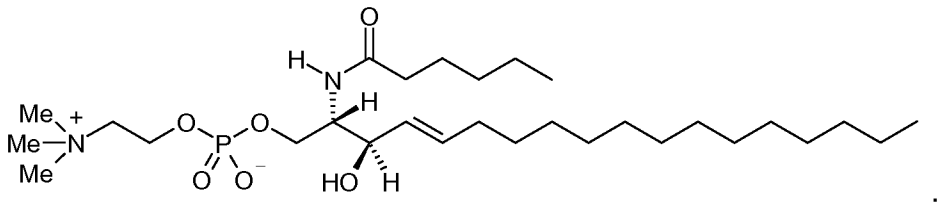
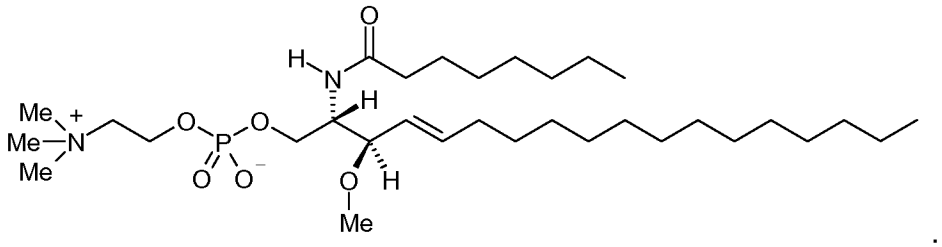
131. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein said short-chain sphingolipid has the following formula ("C_6-SM"):



132. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein said short-chain sphingolipid has the following formula ("3-O-methyl-C_8-SM"):



133. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 128, wherein Q is a polyhydric alcohol group, linked via an oxygen atom.

134. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 133, wherein Q comprises a group selected from: ethanediol (glycol), propanediol, butanediol, glycerol, and erythritol.

Claim 135. (Canceled)

136. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is a liposomal pharmaceutical formulation.

137. (Previously Presented) A liposomal pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 136, wherein the liposomes of the liposomal pharmaceutical formulation are prepared using a mixture of lipids comprising, at least, vesicle-forming lipids and said short-chain sphingolipid.

138. (Previously Presented) A liposomal pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 137, wherein said mixture of lipids comprises phospholipids and said short-chain sphingolipid.

139. (Previously Presented) A liposomal pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 137, wherein said mixture of lipids comprises phospholipids, cholesterol, and said short-chain sphingolipid.

140. (Previously Presented) A liposomal pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 137, wherein said mixture of lipids comprises phosphatidylcholines, cholesterol, and said short-chain sphingolipid.

141. (Previously Presented) A liposomal pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 137, wherein said mixture of lipids comprises fully hydrogenated soy phosphatidylcholine (HSPC), cholesterol, and said short-chain sphingolipid.

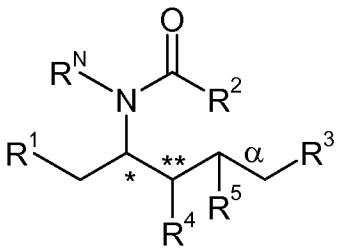
142. (Previously Presented) A liposomal pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 137, wherein said mixture of lipids comprises dipalmitoyl-phosphatidylcholine (DPPC), cholesterol, and said short-chain sphingolipid.

143. (Previously Presented) A liposomal pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 137, wherein said mixture of lipids additionally comprises a vesicle-forming lipid which is derivatized with a polymer chain.

144. (Previously Presented) A liposomal pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 137, wherein said mixture of lipids additionally comprises a phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) which is derivatized with polyethyleneglycol (PEG).

145. (Previously Presented) A liposomal pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 137, wherein said mixture of lipids additionally comprises N-(carbonyl-methoxypolyethylene glycol 2000)-1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine sodium salt (MPEG2000-DSPE).

146. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 92, in the form of Caelyx® or Doxil® liposomes post-inserted with a short-chain sphingolipid selected from compounds of the following formula:



wherein:

R^1 is independently:

an O-linked saccharide group; or

an O-linked polyhydric alcohol group;

or:

R^1 is independently:

an O-linked (optionally N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)-substituted amino)-C_{1-6}alkyl-phosphate group; or

an O-linked (polyhydric alcohol-substituted)-C_{1-6}alkyl-phosphate group;

R^2 is independently C_{3-9}alkyl,

and is independently unsubstituted or substituted;

R^3 is independently C_{7-19}alkyl,

and is independently unsubstituted or substituted;

R^4 is independently -H, -OH, or -O-C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^N is independently -H or C_{1-4}alkyl;

the bond marked with an alpha (α) is independently a single bond or a double bond;

if the bond marked with an alpha (α) is a double bond, then R^5 is -H;

if the bond marked with an alpha (α) is a single bond, then R^5 is -H or -OH;

the carbon atom marked (*) is independently in an R-configuration or an S-configuration;

the carbon atom marked (**) is independently in an R-configuration or an S-configuration;

with the proviso that when R^1 is an O-linked saccharide group which is derived from galactopyranose, then R^1 is D-galactopyranosyl-β1-;

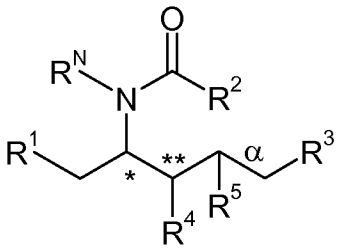
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claims 147-151. (Canceled)

152. (new) A pharmaceutical formulation suitable for parenteral administration comprising:

(i) a drug; and

(ii) a short-chain sphingolipid selected from compounds of the following formula:



wherein:

R^1 is independently an O-linked polyhydric alcohol group;

R^2 is independently $C_{3\text{-}9}$alkyl,

and is independently unsubstituted or substituted;

R^3 is independently $C_{7\text{-}19}$alkyl,

and is independently unsubstituted or substituted;

R^4 is independently -H, -OH, or -O-$C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl;

R^N is independently -H or $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl;

the bond marked with an alpha (α) is a single bond;

R^5 is -H or -OH;

the carbon atom marked (*) is independently in an R-configuration or an S-configuration;

the carbon atom marked (**) is independently in an R-configuration or an S-configuration;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

153. (new) A pharmaceutical formulation suitable for parenteral administration comprising:

(i) an amphiphilic drug; and

(ii) a short-chain sphingolipid having the following formula ("3-O-methyl-C_8-SM"):